

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are in this application and are presented for consideration. New claim 21 has been added.

New claim 21 has been added to limit the vehicle of the claims to submarine type vehicles. The present invention is very advantageously used with vehicles that travel through water, and especially underwater. The travel conditions that a submarine sees while underwater can depend entirely on the characteristics of the water, such as current, density and temperature. These conditions are independent of the geographical location of the submarine. This is quite different from any land vehicle such as a car or truck. The conditions that a land vehicle sees, is very dependent on the geographical location. Two different land journeys in two different geographical locations will have different hills, grades or terrain. Therefore a reference journey in one geographical location cannot accurately be used to forecast energy consumption of a journey in another geographical location. However, with a submarine, two different journeys in two different geographical locations can have very similar energy consumptions if the characteristics of the water of the same. Therefore a reference journey in one geographical location can be accurately used to forecast the energy consumption of a journey in another geographical location.

New claim 21 also sets forth that the predefined journey is a different geographical location than the reference journeys. Support for this can be found in the present application where the present application indicates that the reference journeys can be made while the vehicle is leaving the harbor, paragraph 7. It is clear that the predefined journey discussed in

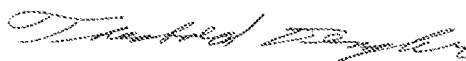
the specification is not limited to a journey where a submarine is leaving the harbor. Therefore the application supports predefined journeys that are geographically spaced from a reference journey.

The prior art does not describe a method or apparatus which uses a reference journey in one geographical location to forecast the energy consumption of a predefined journey in another geographical location. In particular the prior art describes an application using land vehicles, where such forecasting is impossible or so inaccurate as to be insignificant. New claim 21 therefore further defines over the prior art.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

At this time applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



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